

EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES **THE AVENGERS**

#1

NOW!



#1 **MARVEL**

MARK WAID
MIKE DEL MUNDO



HAVE AT
THEE!

CENTRAL PARK,
NEW YORK.

WASP

GODS,
DEMIGODS, OR
MORTALS...

...YOU'LL ALL
TASTE THE SAME
TO ME.

THOR

CAPTAIN
AMERICA

I OFTEN
WORRIED THAT THE
FROST-WOLF HOARFEN
MIGHT SOMEDAY FIND HIS
WAY TO EARTH FROM
THE NETHER-
REALMS.

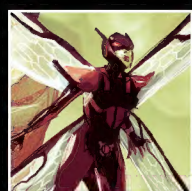
HIS JOURNEY
SEEMS TO HAVE
TAKEN MUCH OUT OF
HIM, BUT HE REMAINS
IMPERVIOUS TO
THE MIGHT OF
MJOLNIR.

DISAPPOINTING.

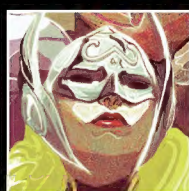
HERCULES



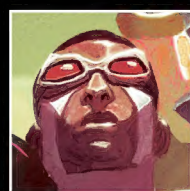
THE AVENGERS



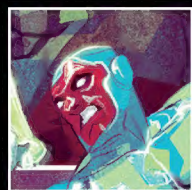
WASP
Nadia Pym



THOR
Jane Foster



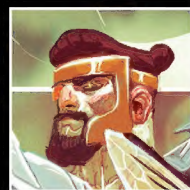
CAPTAIN AMERICA
Sam Wilson



VISION



SPIDER-MAN
Peter Parker



HERCULES

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The Avengers created by Stan Lee & Jack Kirby



I DON'T HAVE ENOUGH PYM PARTICLES TO SHRINK HIM DOWN TO CHIHUAHUA SIZE! TELL ME YOU HAVE A PLAN!

IF VISION WERE HERE, HE COULD PHASE *INSIDE* THIS MONSTER AND DO SOME DAMAGE THERE!

I'M SMALL! I COULD--

NO! SINCE WE'VE GOT ONE OF THE STRONGEST MEN ALIVE WITH US, WE'RE GONNA TRY SOMETHING NEW!

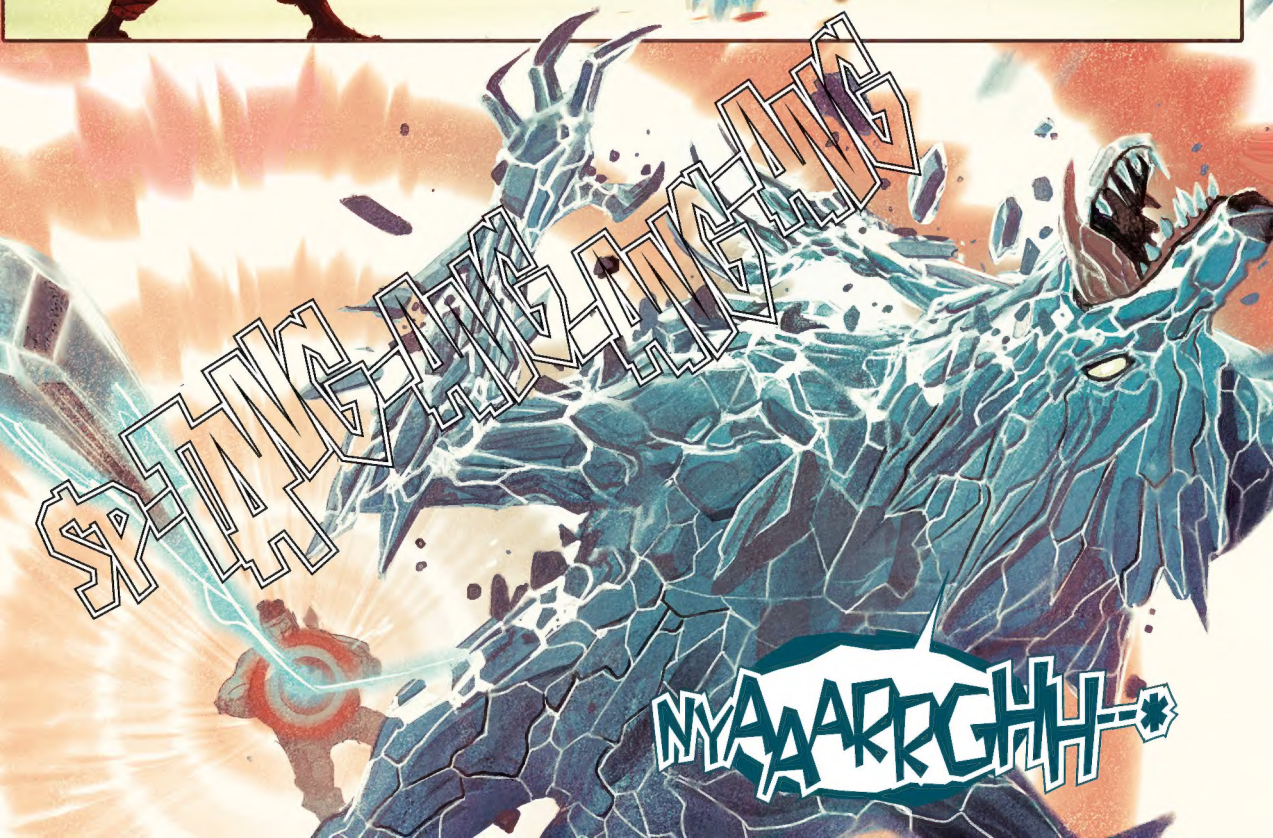
HERCULES! CATCH!



HOLD IT HIGH AND DO NOT LET GO!



AYE, CAPTAIN!



POKE.

POKE,
POKE,
POKE.

YEP,
HE'S OUT,
GUYS.

WE
COULDN'T
HAVE DONE
IT WITHOUT
THIS MAN.

PARDON...?

HERCULES, I
HAVE AN **OFFER**
FOR YOU. YOU USED
TO BE AN AVENGER, AND WITH
IRON MAN IN ROUGH SHAPE
AND **NOVA**, **SPIEY** AND
MS. MARVEL OFF THE
TABLE*, WE COULD **USE**
SOME FRESH BLOOD.
JOIN US?

*SEE
CHAMPIONS #1/
--TOM

IT
WOULD BE
MY **HONOR**,
CAPTAIN.

I HAVE
BEEN ATTEMPTING
TO, AS THEY SAY IN THIS
AGE, "REFORM MY IMAGE"--
THUS, I APPRECIATE THE
OPPORTUNITY.

COOL! HE
CAN COME **WITH**
US TO THE...**THING**
WE WERE INVITED
TO.

**AVENGERS
ASSEMBLE,**
THEN!

FIRST WE
MUST REMOVE THE
FROST-WOLF TO HIS
NATIVE REALM. BUT
FEAR **NOT**. WE WILL
MEET YOU--

"--AT THE
DESIGNATED
TIME AND PLACE."

PARKER INDUSTRIES, NEW YORK HEADQUARTERS. THE BAXTER BUILDING.





OOOH.

NOW, TO BUSINESS.

SPECIFICALLY, HOW PARKER INDUSTRIES WOULD BE HONORED TO FUND THE AVENGERS.



UMMM...

...NOT...TO BE PRESUMPTUOUS, OR ANYTHING...BUT I IMAGINE THAT WITHOUT TONY STARK'S CHECKBOOK, AVENGING CAN BE... COSTLY, SO I THOUGHT...

QUINJET?



YES! C'MON! LEMME SHOW YOU THE AIRCRAFT WE BUILT YOU!



TA-DA!

TA-WHAT?

OOPS. MS. BEACHUM?

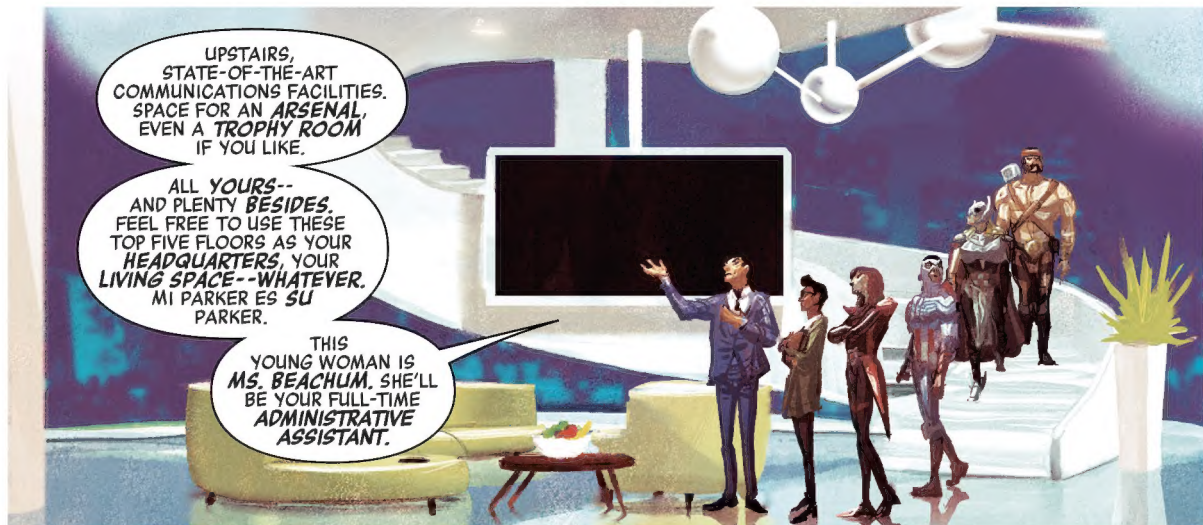


DEET



TOTAL STEALTH CAPABILITY. WHISPER-QUIET MODE, UNDETECTABLE BY SONAR, RADAR OR LASER.

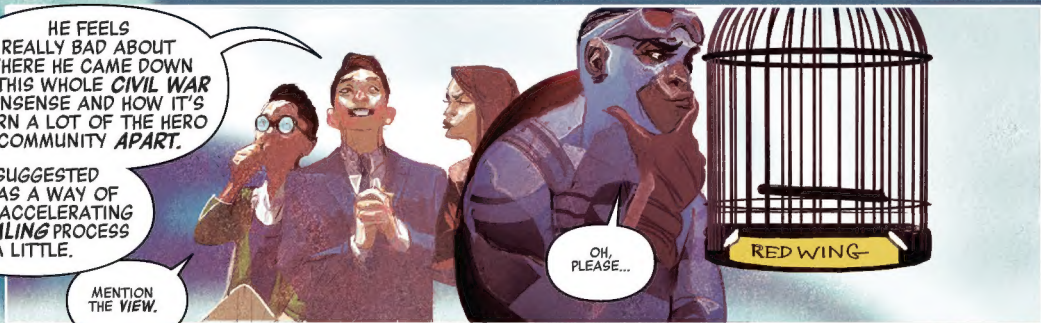
TA-DA.





OH, YEAH, WASPS AND SPIDERS, NATURAL ENEMIES, I FORGOT...

SPIDER-MAN... WORKS FOR ME AS A BODYGUARD. AND I HAVE TO TELL YOU, THIS WAS ALL HIS IDEA!



HE FEELS REALLY BAD ABOUT WHERE HE CAME DOWN IN THIS WHOLE CIVIL WAR NONSENSE AND HOW IT'S TORN A LOT OF THE HERO COMMUNITY APART.

HE SUGGESTED THIS AS A WAY OF MAYBE ACCELERATING THE HEALING PROCESS A LITTLE.

MENTION THE VIEW.

OH, PLEASE...



RIGHT! A 360-DEGREE VIEW OF NEW YORK THROUGH ADAMANTIUM-LACED GLASS!

ANY TROUBLE ON THE HORIZON, YOU'LL BE ABLE TO SPOT IT INSTANTLY!



FOR EXAMPLE:



LET'S GO,
PEOPLE!

WE'LL
BE IN TOUCH,
PARKER!

OH,
MY.

BEACHUM! I
JUST REALIZED I
NEED THOSE...THOSE
P&L STATEMENTS FOR
THE BOARD ON...
FRIDAY!

THEY'RE
ON MY
DESK!
CAN YOU
GO PRINT UP,
SAY, FOUR
DOZEN
COPIES?

BOUND
AND
COLLATED?
RIGHT
NOW?

I...SURE,
MR. PARKER.
IS THERE A
RUSH?



"KINDA!"

WHERE IS
HE, VISION?

WHERE IS THE
CHILD?





THAT IS NOT
INFORMATION
I CHOOSE TO
DISCLOSE,
KANG!

SWORN WITH
SPIRIT. FOR THE
MOMENT, YOU HAVE
THE STRENGTH TO
STAY *TACITURN*.

YOU *DRAW* YOUR
STRENGTH FROM THE
RAYS OF THE *SUN*,
I BELIEVE...?

HOW LONG
CAN YOU RESIST ME
ONCE I TRANSPORT
YOU TO AN EON BEFORE
THE STARS WERE
EVEN *BORN*?

I--



--IIAAGGHH!

--IIAAGGHH!



LOOK AT
THAT. TWO
TARGETS--

--KANG AND
THE SCARLET
CENTURION--FROM
THE LOOKS OF IT,
NEITHER OF
THEM IN PEAK
CONDITION!

TAKE
ADVANTAGE OF
THE MOMENT!
HIT 'EM HARD!

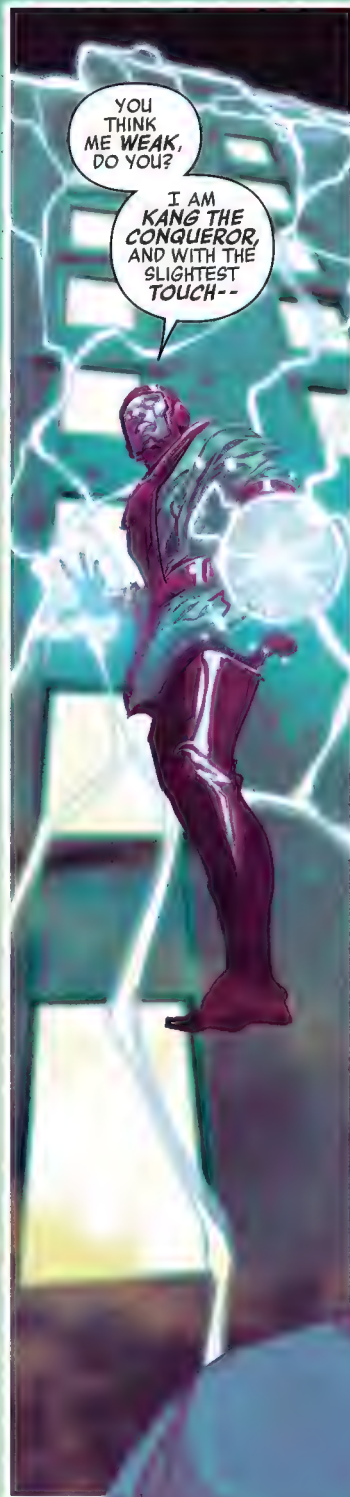
**AVENGERS
ASSEMBLE!**







HHNNNGH!



YOU
THINK
ME WEAK,
DO YOU?

I AM
KANG THE
CONQUEROR,
AND WITH THE
SLIGHTEST
TOUCH--

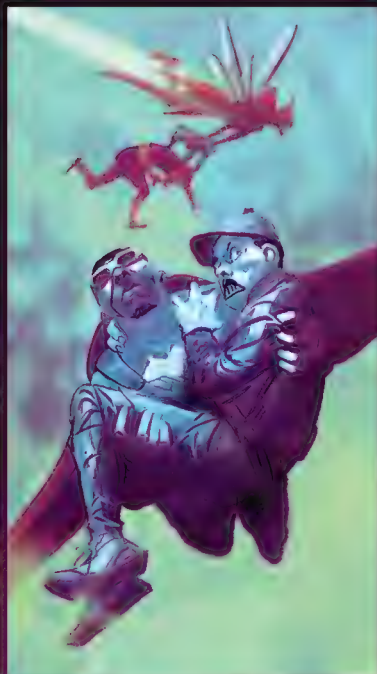


--I CAN
FEED ON THE
FUTURE OF
ANYTHING,
ACCELERATING
IT TO DUST!



THOSE
INSIDE THE
BUILDING--

--GRAB
THEM!



THEN I
WILL **TAKE**
IT FROM
YOU!





EXTRACTION...
MAY NOT WORK
ON HIM.

I CAN'T
IMAGINE WHY
NOT.

THIS WILL
TRANSFER THE
DATA IN HIS
SYNTHETOID
BRAIN INTO MY
RECEPTORS.

THEN WE
WILL KNOW
ALL VISION'S
SECRETS.

NO, WE
WON'T. YOU
ARE MY PAST
SELF, AND WHILE
OUR ENCOUNTER IS
CURIOUSLY NEW TO
ME, I WAS SUDDENLY
OVERCOME WITH A
RECOLLECTION.
THE VISION SAYS
TO YOU--

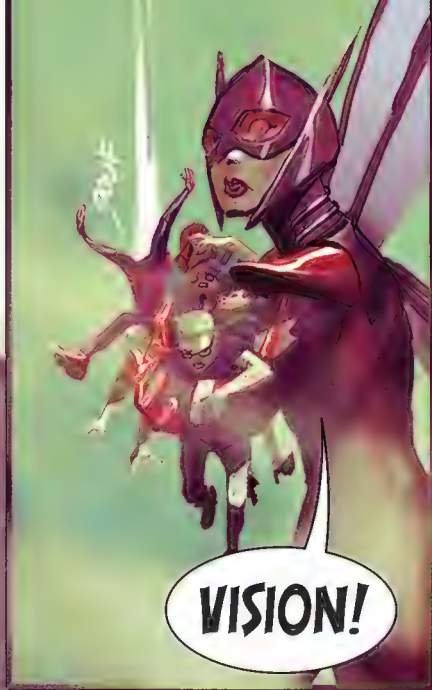
--THE "KZZT"
MEMORY OF
THE-E-E-E-E CH-CHILD'S
LOLOLOCATION IS NOT
WITHHHHIN ME-E-E--

--I
OFF-F-F-
LOADED
IT.

THEN WE'RE
WASTING
VALUABLE
TIME HERE.

LET US
REGROUP.





VISION!



KANG AND THE CENTURION HAVE VANISHED. WE SEEM IN NO IMMEDIATE DANGER. BUT VISION-- IS HE--?

I AM-AM-AM CAAAAAPABLE OF H-HEALING--

THEN LET'S GET HIM BACK TO THE PARKER BUILDING!

"THERE'S A FULLY FUNCTIONAL MED-BAY THERE!"

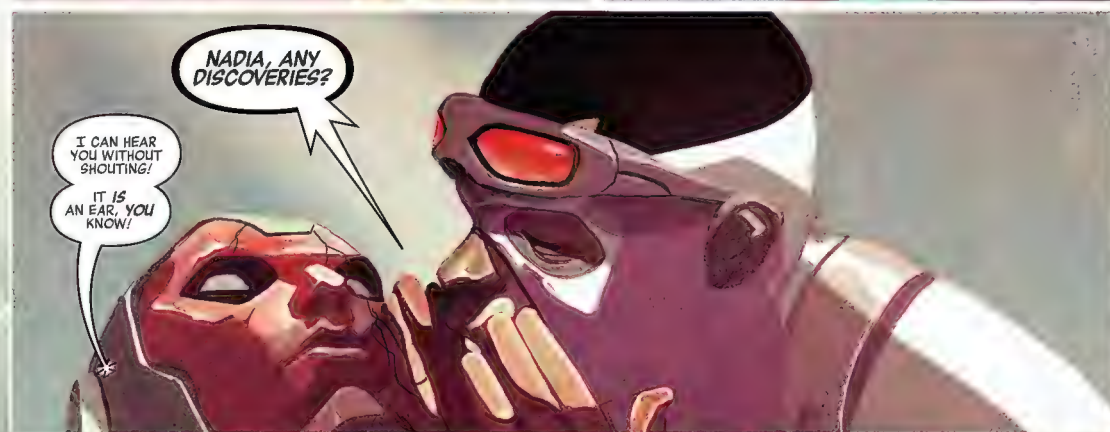


THIS IS CUTTING-EDGE EQUIPMENT. PARKER REALLY IS COUNTING ON THE AVENGERS TAKING HIM UP ON HIS OFFER, ISN'T HE?

I GUESS THAT PARKER'S FULL OF SURPRISES.

NADIA, HOW'S OUR PATIENT DOING?





I AM IN PAIN, BUT THAT WILL PASS.

THEN WHAT CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT KANG AND HIS FISSIONING AND--

HE HAS DONE THAT BEFORE. RECENTLY.



"YOU WERE NOT WITH US, NADIA, BUT THE LAST TIME WE ENCOUNTERED KANG, IT WAS AN ALTERNATE VERSION OF HIM--



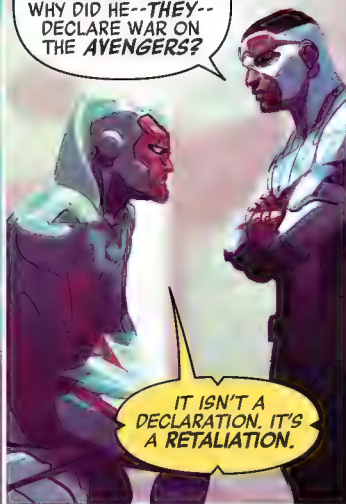
"--ONE WHO CLAIMED THAT, AS HE PUT IT, A 'FIREWALL OF TIME' WAS PREVENTING HIM FROM TRAVELING FORWARD FROM PRESENT DAY.

"KANG HAS MAINTAINED SEVERAL IDENTITIES OVER THE CENTURIES. THIS 'FIREWALL' APPARENTLY CREATES ITS OWN SET OF TIME PARADOXES OF WHICH WE'VE SEEN ONLY A HINT.

"APPARENTLY, HE NOW HAS THE POWER TO DOCTOR TIME LIKE A SURGEON WITHOUT LEAVING SCARS."

SO THAT'S WHY MULTIPLE KANGS CAN COEXIST, ALL OF THEM OUT FOR... WHAT?


WHAT'S THIS ABOUT A MISSING CHILD? WHY DID HE--THEY--DECLARE WAR ON THE AVENGERS?



IT ISN'T A DECLARATION. IT'S A RETALIATION.

IT WAS I WHO DECLARED WAR ON KANG.





FOR YEARS
NOW, KANG HAS BEEN
RELENTLESS IN HIS ATTACKS.
WHEN DEFEATED, HE CAN SIMPLY
TRAVEL THROUGH SPACETIME
TO REJUVENATE--

--THEN
STRIKE AT
US AGAIN AND
AGAIN.

THE LAST TIME,
HE TRANSFORMED ME
INTO HIS WEAPON,
ACTIVATING ANGER
WITHIN ME. AFTERWARDS,
IN RAGE, I ELECTED TO
END KANG ONCE
AND FOR ALL--

--BY
TIME-TRAVELING
MYSELF AND
KIDNAPPING HIM AS
AN INFANT SO
THAT HE COULD
NEVER RISE TO
VILLAINY.*

*AS SEEN IN
ALL-NEW
AVENGERS #13.
--TOM

YOU TRIED
TO DAM THE
TIMESTREAM.

ADMITTEDLY,
A RISK.

YOU
ABDUCTED A
CHILD.

I BELIEVED
I HAD DETERRED
A THREAT.

"NONETHELESS, AS I
WAS REMINDED BY A...
FELLOW TRAVELER, KANG
TRAFFICS IN PARADOXES.

"THEY ABOUND IN HIS PRESENCE. I
AM GRAVELY DISAPPOINTED THAT
MY GAMBIT APPARENTLY FAILED--
BUT I AM NOT SURPRISED."





REALLY? BECAUSE IT SEEMS TO ME YOU'RE **FULL** OF SURPRISES! WERE YOU PLANNING ON **TELLING** US ALL THIS?

NO. SO LONG AS I WAS THE ONLY ONE WHO **KNEW**, I WOULD BE THE ONLY **TARGET**.

THERE IS **NO REASON** THAT YOU OF ALL AVENGERS SHOULD BE THE **CRAZIEST** ONE IN THE ROOM.

SO WHERE IS THE **BBY** NOW?



I DO NOT KNOW.

AS I ADVISED THE **CENTURION** AFTER HE SHATTERED MY SKULL, I **OFF-LOADED** THAT DATA NOT LONG AGO.



"IT IS SAFELY IN **STORAGE**."

THERE IS A WAY TO **FIND** IT.


WE CANNOT TRAVEL INTO THE **FUTURE**--



--BUT WE CAN **SEE** THE MOMENT THE **VISION** SURRENDERED THE **INFORMATION**--



--BY FOLLOWING HIS **LIFELINE BACKWARDS** THROUGH HIS LAST **FEW WEEKS**.



WITNESSING
AN EXISTENCE
IN *REVERSE* IS
ALWAYS SO
TELLING.

I WAS NOT
AWARE VISION
WAS A *FAMILY*
MAN.

IT'S
IN THE
HISTORICAL
TEXTS.

YOU'LL
STUDY THEM
SOMEDAY.



THERE!

EVERYTHING
WE COULD POSSIBLY
WANT TO KNOW IS
BEING DOWNLOADED
INTO THAT *CRYSTAL*
SPHERE.

AS WE
LET TIME FLOW
FORWARD ONCE
MORE AND THE
VISION LEAVES
THE *ROOM*--



--IT'S
OURS FOR THE
TAKING!



OF
COURSE.
WHAT A
MAGNIFICENT
HIDING PLACE
FOR THE
INFANT US.

A TRUCE:
WE WILL
RETRIEVE HIM
TOGETHER...



...BUT ONLY
AFTER VISITING A
JUST PUNISHMENT
ON THE AVENGERS
FOR WHAT THEY
TRIED TO DO
TO US.



BE
MERCILESS.

AS EVER BY
POOLING OUR
ENERGIES, WE CAN BE
ANYWHERE--ANYWHEN--
SIMULTANEOUSLY.

AND THAT
WILL BE THEIR
DOWNFALL.





"SAFELY IN STORAGE," HE SAYS.

HE STARTS A WAR, THEN HE BRINGS IT TO US WITHOUT WARNING. ALL WHILE SHORT ON MEMBERS. WE'RE DOWN TO SIX.



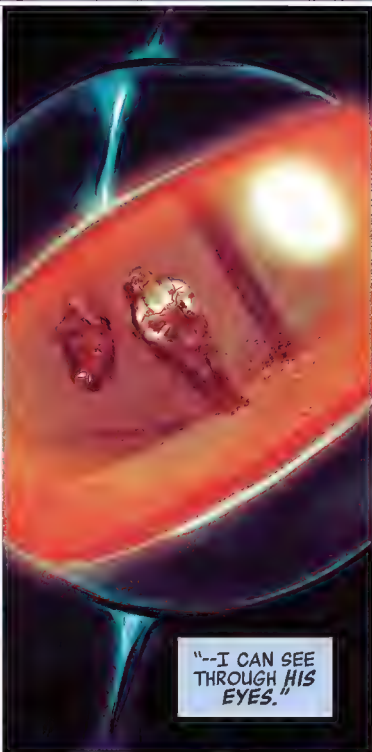
YOU, HERC, VISION, THOR, WASP...

HANG ON, ARE YOU INCLUDING ME? I MEAN, I'M FLATTERED...

I WAS COUNTING REDWING, ACTUALLY.

HE'S A BIRD. YOUR PET BIRD.

MY PARTNER. HE'S GOT A HEALING FACTOR AND SONIC CANNONS...AND, BELIEVE IT OR NOT, IF I CONCENTRATE--



"--I CAN SEE THROUGH HIS EYES."



OH, PLEASE. SONIC CANNONS?



YEAH.

SO, ARE YOU AVENGER NUMBER SEVEN?

...I'LL GET BACK TO YOU...



I HAVE SOME FRIENDS WHO MAY HELP US FORESTALL ANY FURTHER ATTACKS. I SHALL RETURN SOON.

GODSPEED.

DEMIGOD SPEED.

WHATEVER.

HNN.



EVERYTHING ALL RIGHT?

JUST A...A WEIRD SHUDDER. LIKE A RABBIT RAN OVER MY GRAVE.



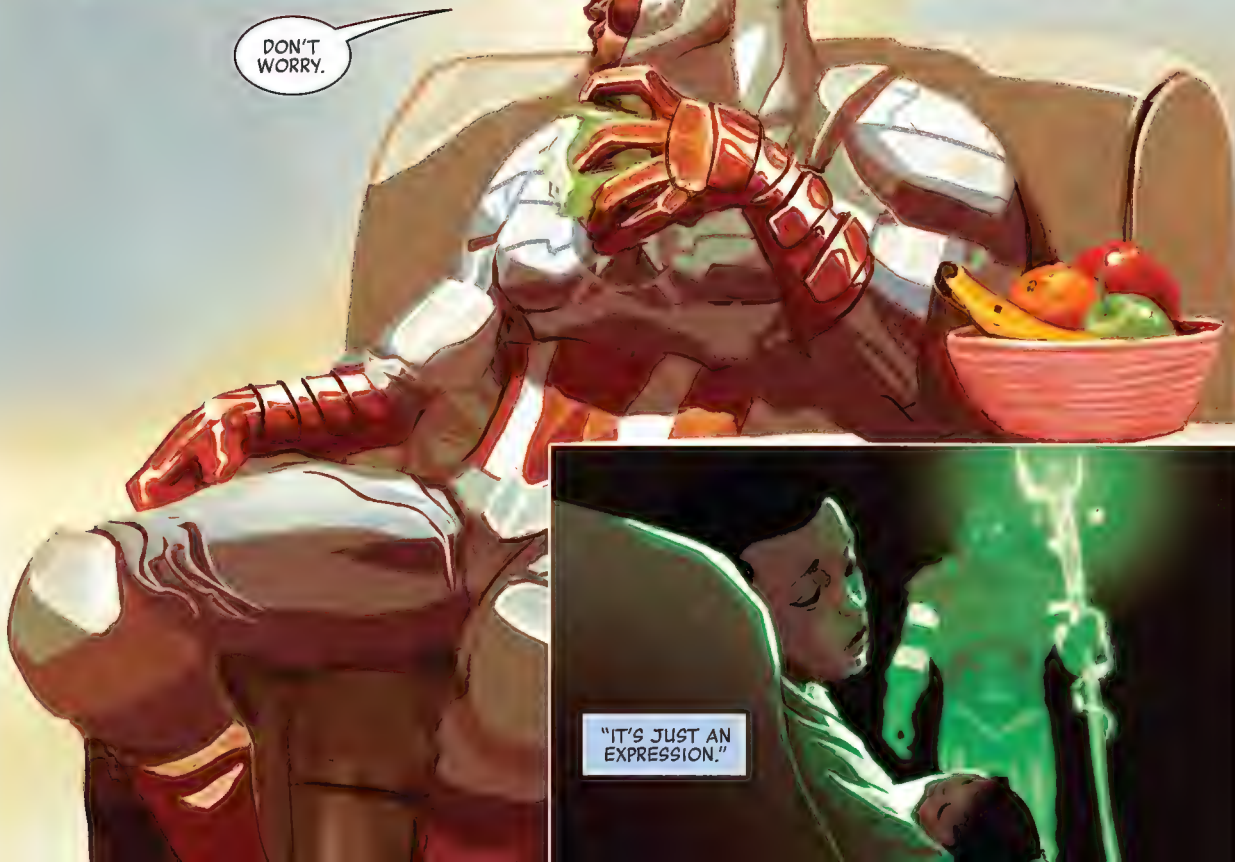
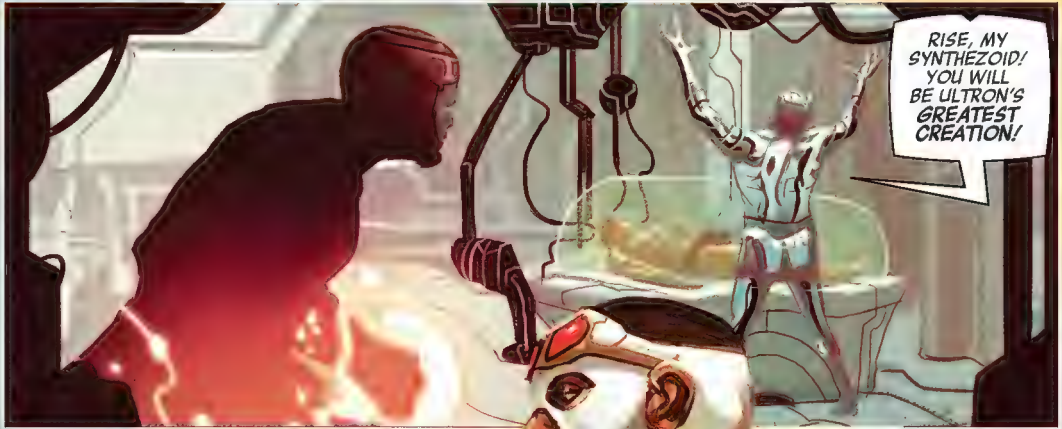
RICHARD AND MARY PARKER, THIS IS YOUR FINEST ACCOMPLISHMENT YET! WHAT DID YOU DECIDE TO NAME HIM?

WE THOUGHT "PETER."



WHAT DO RABBITS HAVE TO DO WITH CHILLS?

IT'S WHAT WE MIDGARDIANS SAY, THOR. IT MEANS AN UNEASY FEELING OF MORTALITY.





FOSTER, JANE



NEXT:
THE WAR TO END ALL TIME!

COMING THIS YEAR IN AVENGERS



NEXT



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